

20. The method of claim 19, wherein the stirring rate is between 200 and 2000 rpm.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein the blood platelets are physiologically active blood platelets.

22. The method of claim 18, wherein the the blood platelets are fixed blood platelets.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein platelet aggregation is measured using a ristocetin cofactor test.

24. The method of claim 18, wherein the sample is chosen from at least one of whole blood, platelet-rich plasma, diluted platelet-rich plasma, and purified platelets.

25. The method of claim 18, wherein measuring the aggregation of blood platelets is performed by one of turbidimetric, nephelometric or electromagnetic methods.

26. The method of claim 18, wherein a mixing time is determined by the particular reaction mixture ingredients used.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the reaction mixture ingredients are platelet activators comprising ristocetin, collagen, ADP, epinephrine, or arachidonic acid.

28. A method of measuring the stability of blood platelet aggregates, comprising:

a) obtaining a sample;

b) adding reaction mixture ingredients to the sample thereby creating a first reaction mixture;

- c) mixing the first reaction mixture in a first reaction phase;
- d) mixing the first reaction mixture less vigorously or not at all in a second reaction phase and measuring the aggregation of blood platelets in a first aggregation measurement;
- e) repeating steps a) and b) to generate an analogous second reaction mixture;
- f) mixing the second reaction mixture, wherein a second aggregation measurement is performed while mixing; and
- g) comparing the first aggregation measurement to the second aggregation measurement.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the mixing is accomplished by stirring, shaking, vibrating, or ultrasound.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the stirring rate is between 200 and 2000 rpm.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein the blood platelets are physiologically active blood platelets.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the the blood platelets are fixed blood platelets.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein platelet aggregation is measured using a ristocetin cofactor test.

34. The method of claim 28, wherein the sample is chosen from at least one of whole blood, platelet-rich plasma, diluted platelet-rich plasma, and purified platelets.

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35. The method of claim 28, wherein measuring the aggregation of blood platelets is performed by one of turbidimetric, nephelometric or electromagnetic methods.

36. The method of claim 28, wherein a mixing time is determined by the particular reaction mixture ingredients used.

37. The method of claim 36, wherein the reaction mixture ingredients are platelet activators comprising ristocetin, collagen, ADP, epinephrine, or arachidonic acid.

38. The method of claims 18 or 28, wherein the mixing of any reaction mixture is preceded by an incubation step without mixing.

39. The method of claim 38, wherein there is a sequence of multiple alternating mixing steps and non-mixing incubation steps.

40. The method of claims 18 or 28, wherein an initial aggregation measurement is taken before the reaction mixture is mixed.

41. The method of claims 18 or 28, wherein the aggregation measurements are determined by counting the remaining unaggregated platelets.

42. The method of claims 18 or 28, wherein the aggregation of blood platelets with other particles containing ligands or receptors that facilitate aggregation is measured.

43. The method of claims 18 or 28, wherein blood platelets may be replaced by any one of other cells, membrane vesicles, or artificial particles containing ligands or receptors that facilitate aggregation.

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